

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification by deleting the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 1, and insert the following replacement paragraph:

An alternative to the traditional brick surround is the natural stone, dry-stack surround. These come in many styles. For example, one style uses a ledge stone that is cut into many small skinny pieces. This style is referred to a California Tight Fit Ledge. A second style also utilizes ledge stone but has not been cut into as many smaller skinny pieces. This style can be referred to as Traditional Country Ledge. By way of example, in a California Style Ledge sixty-four inch header[;]] there can be fifty-three individual stones compared to thirty-five individual stones in the Traditional Country Ledge sixty-four inch header. The leg portions of such surrounds have corresponding numbers of individual stones as well. Both of these styles have the appearance of being dry-stacked (no mortar joint). There are many colors available in both of these styles, depending upon the stone being used.

Please amend the specification by deleting the paragraph on page 6, beginning at line 8, and insert the following replacement paragraph:

Turning to the drawings, a fireplace surround system 11 of the present invention is for use to face off a zero clearance manufactured fireplace 13. Although a particular manufactured fireplace 13 is shown, it should be realized that the present invention is of general applicability and is not limited to use with any particular manufactured fireplace. System 11 using several

parts that are cast out of light weight concrete replicating the look, feel, and color of natural or man made stone. This unit consists of two twelve inch wide legs 15, 17 that are thirty-seven inches tall. The thickness of each leg can vary from, for example, 1.5 inches to 2.5 inches, reflecting the natural variation in stone sizes. Different thicknesses could, of course, be used. The twelve inch width of each leg is nominal. It can increase in places (to, for example, fourteen inches) based on the width of the individual stone corner pieces on the outside edge of the part.

Please amend the specification by deleting the paragraph on page 7, beginning at line 7, and insert following replacement paragraph:

It has been found that fireplace surround system 11 provides light weight, ease of installation, and replication of natural stone, at a very reasonable price. By way of illustration, any laborer can install ~~system 11~~ system 11—one does not have to be a stone mason to install system 11.

Please amend the specification by deleting the paragraph on page 10, beginning at line 1, and insert the following replacement paragraph:

Springfield, Missouri. This stone varies in thickness between one to two inches thick. There are many sizes and shapes to this pattern. It is believed to be made of light weight expanded shale aggregate manufactured by Buildex, Lone Star Portland Cement type I, plasticizer, micro silica manufactured by General Resource Technology, iron oxide color pigments manufactured by Dynamic Color Solutions, and river sand. This stone is cast in molds and is then used for the surround system.